

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a radio communication system comprising a first transceiver, a ~~second~~ at least one other transceiver and a repeater, the method comprising:
 - upon receiving data from ~~one of either the first or second transceivers~~ transceiver,
 - transmitting, by the repeater, a repeat flag to cause the transceivers first transceiver and the at least one other transceiver to suspend further action, then
 - transmitting, by the repeater, the data received from the ~~one of either the first or second transceivers~~ transceiver, and then
 - transmitting, by the repeater, an overall acknowledge status to inform all transceivers in the system of the success or failure of receipt of the data transmitted by the repeater.
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~each of the first and second~~ at least one other transceivers transmit an acknowledgement indicating the successful or unsuccessful receipt of the data transmitted by the repeater.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the overall acknowledge status is transmitted after receipt of the acknowledgements from each of the ~~first and second~~ at least one other transceivers, and the overall acknowledge status is based upon the received acknowledgements.
4. (Previously Presented) A method for transmitting and receiving data according to a frame for use in a network of devices comprising a first transceiver, a repeater, and at least one other transceiver, the method comprising:
 - transmitting, by the first transceiver, data for each of the at least one other transceivers in a first time slot of the frame;

transmitting, by the repeater, a repeat flag in a second time slot of the frame after the first time slot;

retransmitting, by the repeater, the data transmitted in the first time slot in a third time slot of the frame, after the second time slot; and

transmitting, by the repeater, an overall acknowledge status to the network in a last time slot after the third time slot to inform all transceivers in the network of the success or failure of receipt of the retransmitted data.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising transmitting, by each of the at least one other transceivers, in a fourth time slot of the frame, after the third time slot and before the last time slot, an acknowledgement of a successful or unsuccessful receipt of the data.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the fourth time slot of the frame is divided into a first sub-time slot for indicating a positive acknowledgement, and a second sub-time slot for indicating a negative acknowledge.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, in which the first and third time slots of the frame are variable in length and the first and second sub-time slots are fixed in length.
8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the positive acknowledge comprises the transmission of a specific coded value containing sufficient redundancy to allow it to be recovered in the presence of received errors, and the negative acknowledge comprises the transmission of a specific coded value containing sufficient redundancy to allow it to be recovered in the presence of received errors.
9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the last time slot for transmitting an overall acknowledge status to the network is a fifth time slot after the fourth time slot, and the overall acknowledge status is based upon the acknowledgements received in the fourth time slot.

10. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system comprising a first transceiver, a second at least one other transceiver and a repeater, wherein upon receiving data from one of either the first or second transceivers, transceiver in a first time slot, the repeater transmits a repeat flag in a second time slot to cause the transceivers to suspend further action, then in a third time slot transmits the data received in the first time slot, and transmits an overall acknowledge status to all transceivers in a last time slot after the third time slot to inform all transceivers in the system of the success or failure of receipt of the data transmitted by the repeater.
11. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system according to claim 10, wherein each of the first and second at least one other transceivers transmit, in a fourth time slot before the last time slot, an acknowledgement indicating the successful or unsuccessful receipt of the data transmitted in the third time slot.
12. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system according to claim 11, wherein each of the first and second at least one other transceivers transmit a positive acknowledge in a first of two sub-time slots of the fourth time slot or transmit a negative acknowledge in a second of two sub-time slots of the fourth time slot.
13. (Previously Presented) A radio communication system according to claim 11, wherein the last time slot is a fifth time slot after the fourth time slot, and the overall acknowledge status is based upon the acknowledgements received in the fourth time slot.
14. (Previously Presented) A repeater for use in a radio communication system comprising at least two transceivers, wherein upon receiving data in a first time slot, the repeater transmits a repeat flag in a second time slot to cause the transceivers to suspend further action, then transmits in a third time slot, data received in the first time slot, and then transmits in a last time slot, after the third time slot, an overall acknowledge status to inform each of the transceivers of the success or failure of receipt of the data transmitted by the repeater.

15. (Previously Presented) A repeater according to claim 14, wherein upon receiving acknowledgement data from the at least two transceivers in a fourth time slot, the repeater transmits an overall acknowledge status as the overall status in a fifth time slot.
16. (Previously Presented) A transceiver for use in a radio communication system comprising at least one other transceiver and a repeater, wherein upon receiving a repeat flag from the repeater, in a second time slot, the transceiver suspends further action until it receives from the repeater, in a third time slot, data that was originally transmitted by the at least one other transceiver in a first time slot, before the second time slot, and an overall acknowledge status from the repeater in a last time slot, after the third time slot, after which the transceiver resumes normal action,
wherein the overall acknowledge status informs each of the transceivers of the success or failure of receipt of the data from the repeater.
17. (Previously Presented) A transceiver according to claim 16, wherein in a fourth time slot after the third time slot and before the last time slot, the transceiver transmits an acknowledgement indicating the successful or unsuccessful receipt of the data transmitted in the third time slot.
18. (Previously Presented) A transceiver according to claim 17, wherein the transceiver transmits a positive acknowledge in a first of two sub-time slots of the fourth time slot, or transmits a negative acknowledge in a second of two sub-time slots of the fourth time slot.
- 19-43. (Cancelled)